

PRACTICUM: “VIRTUAL CADET SQUADRON”

Scope:	This exercise simulates the leadership and managerial challenges involved in leading a cadet unit, testing students’ fulfillment of the TLC course objectives. In the exercise scenario, students find themselves at the helm of a cadet unit. They must set goals for the unit, plan meetings, respond to leadership issues, and more. Each student completes three required modules, plus any electives they choose, as time permits.
Format:	Simulation
Duration:	1.5 hours
Goal:	Students will apply their understanding of cadet leadership and program management as they demonstrate they have fulfilled the TLC program’s block objectives, as outlined in the curriculum guide.
Resources:	Student instructions and handouts (4 attachments)

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

1. Using the “Virtual Cadet Squadron” student instructions, review the objective of each task with the class.
2. Distribute the lesson materials for the practicum’s core activities (4 attachments).
3. Have the students work on the core activities independently or with a classmate.
4. On an individual basis, evaluate each student’s work using the guidelines below and provide constructive feedback.

“VIRTUAL CADET SQUADRON” EVALUATION GUIDELINES

When reviewing students’ work in each of the practicum’s core activities, consider the following:

Cadet Unit Self-Assessment

1. Is the assessment complete?
2. Did the student list some observations to support their assessment?
3. Did the student identify some lessons learned from TLC that can help their unit improve?

Meetings & Activities

1. Are the goals meaningful, and do they follow the “SMART” principles described in Attachment 2?
2. Did the student develop a detailed weekly schedule, including the duration of each activity and the person responsible for leading it?
3. Did the student develop a schedule for three additional meetings? Does it include a good mix of cadet activities and include time for testing, safety, and moral leadership?

Cadet Promotions

1. Did the student complete Attachment 4? (See below for the answer key)
Cadet #1 C/Amn, no special awards
Cadet #2 C/SrA, Recruiter Ribbon
Cadet #3 C/Capt, Red Service Award, Encampment Ribbon, NCSA Ribbon
Cadet #4 C/CMSgt, Red Service Award, National Cadet Competition Ribbon
Cadet #5 C/1st Lt, Encampment Ribbon, AFA or VFW Cadet of the Year Ribbon
Cadet #6 C/TSgt, Encampment Ribbon, Community Service Ribbon
2. Did the student complete two CAPF 50 evaluations on cadets in their unit?
 - a. Does the remarks section include meaningful feedback?
 - b. Does the student’s promotion decision take into account the leadership expectations discussed in the “Managing a Cadet / Senior Team” lesson?
 - c. Does the student display positive leadership qualities when providing feedback to the cadet (via role-playing)?

The following three activities are optional:

Cadet Physical Fitness Test Administration

1. The student will conduct the CPFT. See CAPP 52-18 for guidance.

Orientation Flights

1. A TLC instructor reviews the orientation flight procedures and on-line reporting system with the student. See the orientation flight page at cap.gov/cadets for guidance.

Individualized Assistance (Mentoring)

1. This is simply an opportunity for students to meet with a TLC instructor to discuss any cadet-related issue(s) of their choosing.

REMOTIVATION & CLOSING

Through this exercise, you have applied what you learned about the Cadet Program. Your work included:

- making an assessment of your squadron's Cadet Program;
- developing some "SMART" goals you can use to re-energize your unit;
- creating meeting schedules that keep your cadets engaged;
- testing your knowledge of the cadet progression requirements; and
- evaluating the performance of cadets, and helping them become better leaders.

As we conclude, I wish to remind you that in survey after survey, cadets have said it is your leadership skills that contribute most to their overall experience in CAP. Cadets need leaders. They are eager to follow your guidance. I hope you are excited about your opportunity to influence young people and develop tomorrow's aerospace leaders. Thank you for volunteering your time to attend TLC.